



City Administrator's Report

September 2009

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.

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Key Meetings

City Council Meetings

Tuesday, October 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th at 2 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers at 735 Anacapa Street.

Special City Council Meeting

Thursday, October 1st at 8:30 a.m. in the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room at 630 Garden Street. Joint Work Session with the Planning Commission about the Planning Division Work Program Activities.

Community Events

Free Tennis and Swim Weekend

Saturday, October 3rd and Sunday, October 4th, the community can take advantage of free tennis and pool/ocean activities. For more information, call the City's Parks and Recreation Department at 564-5418.

Annual Harbor and Seafood Festival

Saturday, October 10th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Harbor. Enjoy fresh seafood, cooking demonstrations, and much more. Admission is free. For more information, visit: www.HarborFestival.org.

Election Day

Tuesday, November 3rd. For more information on the General Municipal Election visit the website at www.SBCityVote.org.

Flags on State Street

The Granada

September 25th to October 2nd

C.A.M.A. (Community Arts Music Association)

October 2nd to 13th

City Administrator's Office

City Budget Update. During a Budget Work Session on September 3rd, the City Council reviewed budget shortfalls for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010. Despite mid-year budget revisions, the City ended Fiscal Year 2009 with a \$2.4 million budget shortfall due primarily to declines in sales tax and the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT). At the September 3rd budget meeting, staff reviewed a proposed strategy with Council to balance the Fiscal Year 2009 budget with the use of one-time funding from the workers compensation program. The availability of these funds was a direct result of an improved safety record and fewer employee injuries.

Since the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2010 budget, key tax revenues have continued to deteriorate beyond budgeted assumptions. As a result, revenues are projected to fall short of budget by approximately \$2.9 million by fiscal year end. The City faces an estimated budget shortfall of \$2.9 million in the current year's budget if no corrective action was taken.

On September 3rd, staff presented a balancing strategy to Council that included a combination of mid-year department budget cuts, keeping vacant positions unfilled and the use of one-time funds. By keeping unfilled positions vacant to generate savings, no employee layoffs are proposed for the current year. A final balancing strategy and related budget adjustments for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010 will be considered by Council in late October.

Another Budget Work Session was held on September 8th to review revenue projections and the financial outlook for Fiscal Year 2011 that begins on July 1, 2010. Council provided preliminary input on possible budget adjustments in the upcoming fiscal year. In January, City departments will begin preparing Fiscal Year 2011 recommended budgets for Council review.

Both work sessions were videotaped and can be found on the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCa.gov.

Are You Prepared for Possible Floods? Due to recent fires that burned in the areas above the City, heavy rains may result in flooding or mudslides. The public is invited to attend one of several informational meetings scheduled through December to plan for heavy rains and possible flooding conditions this winter. At the information meetings, residents will learn how local agencies are preparing for a flood emergency and how to protect their property. Information meetings will be held at 6 p.m. on the following dates:

- Thursday, October 15th, Rockwood Woman's Club, 670 Mission Canyon Rd.
 - Wednesday, October 28th, American Red Cross, 2707 State St.
 - Thursday, November 12th, Franklin Neighborhood Center, 1136 East Montecito St.
 - Thursday, November 19th, Franklin School Auditorium, 1111 East Mason St.
- (Spanish translation available at this meeting)
- Thursday, December 10th, Downtown Library Faulkner Gallery, 40 East Anapamu St.

For more information, visit the City's website at: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/OES.

Inside Santa Barbara. *Inside Santa Barbara* is the City's news magazine show that covers significant issues, projects, and events. The September episode covers new Mills Act incentives for Historic Preservation, the Parma Park Jobs Grant, new statewide Greywater system regulations, the City's Housing Authority Commission, the City's after school programs, the Cachuma Conservation Release Board, and the *Where's Your Bag* campaign kick-off event. *Inside Santa Barbara* airs on the following days and times on City TV Channel 18: Mondays at 8

and 8:30 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5 and 5:30 p.m.; Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 9 and 9:30 p.m.; and Sundays at 10 and 10:30 p.m. *Inside Santa Barbara* can also be [viewed online](#). For more information, call City TV at 564-5311.

Administrative Services Department

Vote-By-Mail Election. Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd. The City's General Municipal Election will be a vote-by-mail election. Voter packets consisting of the voter information pamphlet, ballots, and prepaid return envelopes will be mailed by the City Clerk's Office beginning Monday, October 5th. The last day ballots will be accepted is Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd. Voters have the option to return their ballots using the prepaid postage return envelope or by dropping off their ballots at the City Clerk's Office during regular business hours beginning Monday, October 5th through Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd.

Although this is a vote-by-mail election, voters will have the option to vote in person at any of the seven drop-off centers located throughout the City on Saturday, October 31st from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Voters will cast their vote for Mayor (four-year term) and three City Councilmember (four-year term) seats. Voters will also vote "yes" or "no" on the following four ballot measures:

Measure B-2009 – Building Heights: Shall the City Charter be revised by amending Charter Section 1506 to reduce the maximum allowed building height within the City to forty-five (45) feet generally and forty (40) feet within the El Pueblo Viejo district except for those areas of the City zoned for single-family and two-family homes where the maximum building height will remain at thirty (30) feet?

Measure C-2009 – Parks and Recreation Commission: Shall the City Charter be revised by amending Charter Section 809 and Charter Section 810 to combine the Board of Park Commissioners with the Recreation Commission to form a new commission called the "Parks and Recreation Commission" and to allow the City Council to appoint a youth member of the new Parks and Recreation Commission?

Measure D-2009 – Board of Harbor Commissioners: Shall the City Charter be revised by amending Charter Section 811 to increase the number of Harbor Commissioners from five (5) to seven (7) members and to allow one member of the Commission to be a registered voter within Santa Barbara County and not necessarily just within the City of Santa Barbara as currently required?

Measure E-2009 – Architectural Board of Review (ABR): Shall the City Charter be revised by amending Charter Section 814 to reduce the number of Members on the Architectural Board of Review (the "ABR") from nine (9) to seven (7) members and to allow the City Council to appoint up to three (3) ABR members from persons registered to vote within Santa Barbara County and not necessarily just within the City of Santa Barbara as currently required?

For a list of drop-off centers, more information regarding November's vote-by-mail election, ballot measures, or election material in Spanish, visit: www.SBCityVote.org.

Airport Department

July Passenger Traffic Declines. Airline passenger traffic at Santa Barbara Airport decreased in July 2009 as compared to July 2008. This July, the Airport served 71,803 passengers, an 11.3% decrease when compared to last July's passenger traffic count. The highest average passenger loads were aboard the *United* flights to Denver (92.2%), *Horizon Air* flights to Seattle (90.2%), and *Delta* flights to Salt Lake City (87.3%).

Community Development Department

Planning Commission Update. In October, the Planning Commission will meet on October 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd. Some of the highlights include:

On October 1st, the Commission will hold an environmental hearing on the Hillside House located at 1235 Veronica Springs Road.

On October 8th, the Commission will make decisions on the following projects: a small office addition to the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant administration building at 520 East Yanonali Street; the replacement sewer line at 705 Firestone Road; a three-lot subdivision at 1712 Anacapa Street, and 35 State Street (La Entrada Substantial Conformance hearing); and the mixed-use condominiums at 803 North Milpas Street.

On October 15th, the Commission may hold an environmental hearing on the condominium project at 1820 to 1826 De la Vina Street.

On October 22nd, the Commission will hold a discussion meeting on *Plan Santa Barbara*.

Finance Department

Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT). August TOT, or bed tax, was down 19.0% from the prior August. August is our largest TOT month and comprises roughly 15% of the total TOT generated in a year. The August decline marks the 12th consecutive month of TOT declines with eight of those months experiencing double-digit declines. However, the decline is less than the 23.1% estimated for the month as contained in the updated Fiscal Year 2010 projections. For Fiscal Year 2010, the revised TOT revenue estimate is \$11,351,970 and assumes an overall 5.7% decline from Fiscal Year 2009.

City of Santa Barbara								
TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES								
Month	FY 2007	Change Prior Year	FY 2008	Change Prior Year	FY 2009	Change Prior Year	FY 2010	Change Prior Year
July	\$ 1,556,439	5.3%	\$ 1,613,163	3.6%	\$ 1,631,965	1.2%	\$ 1,393,219	-14.6%
Aug	1,591,998	5.8%	1,645,684	3.4%	1,820,811	10.6%	1,474,077	-19.0%
Sept	1,196,533	7.9%	1,218,695	1.9%	1,196,294	-1.8%		
Oct	1,051,043	9.1%	1,075,341	2.3%	1,049,515	-2.4%		
Nov	887,047	9.6%	870,754	-1.8%	770,009	-11.6%		
Dec	669,540	-0.4%	669,133	-0.1%	599,323	-10.4%		
Jan	677,428	2.4%	691,651	2.1%	680,474	-1.6%		
Feb	758,041	2.6%	811,319	7.0%	643,342	-20.7%		
Mar	953,927	11.5%	1,000,573	4.9%	760,032	-24.0%		
April	1,046,772	4.6%	958,282	-8.5%	930,516	-2.9%		
May	1,052,582	3.7%	1,118,049	6.2%	944,898	-15.5%		
June	1,249,817	2.1%	1,262,909	1.0%	1,010,973	-19.9%		
FY Total	\$ 12,691,167	5.5%	\$ 12,935,553	1.9%	\$ 12,038,153	-6.9%	\$ 2,867,296	-17.0%
Revised Estimate							\$ 11,351,970	-5.7%

Includes only the 10% unrestricted TOT revenues. Beginning in January 2001, an additional 2% is credited to Creeks/Clean Water (Measure B).

Sales Tax. Sales tax for the final quarter of Fiscal Year 2009 was down 16.2%, marking the 3rd consecutive quarter of double-digit declines. While the decline was worse than anticipated, Santa Barbara's sales tax for the June quarter came in better than the statewide decline of 20.8%. For the entire Fiscal Year, sales tax in Fiscal Year 2009 was down 11.3% from the prior year. Sales tax information for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2010 (the current quarter) will not be released by the State until mid-December.

City of Santa Barbara						
SALES TAX						
Quarter Ended	FY 2007	Change from Prior Year	FY 2008	Change from Prior Year	FY 2009	Change from Prior Year
Sept 30	5,234,636	1.4%	5,154,452	-1.5%	5,123,439	-0.6%
Dec 31	5,109,958	1.5%	5,125,067	0.3%	4,527,849	-11.7%
Mar 31	4,698,398	7.6%	4,636,818	-1.3%	3,822,921	-17.6%
June 30	5,240,527	5.0%	4,853,654	-7.4%	4,068,849	-16.2%
Totals	\$ 20,283,519	3.7%	\$ 19,769,991	-2.5%	\$ 17,543,057	-11.3%

Fire Department

Fire Station Renovation Completed. The seismic retrofit and renovation of Fire Station 1 at 121 W. Carrillo Street is complete. Construction on this project began in June 2008 and cost \$7 million. This critical public safety facility improvement project was funded by the City Redevelopment Agency. The building is now being occupied by fire crews. The new Emergency Operations Center and classroom training area are being furnished and will officially be ready in late October. An open house is planned for Saturday, October 24 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

City Firefighters Assisted with Station Fire in Los Angeles. The Station Fire burned more than 160,000 acres within the Angeles National Forest and near surrounding foothill communities including La Canada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Acton, Soledad Canyon, Pasadena, Glendale, and Sierra Madre. Fourteen City of Santa Barbara firefighters assisted with the Station Fire in both administrative and firefighting roles. The fire was the tenth largest wild fire in California since 1933.

Library Department

The Big Read. A National Endowment for the Arts grant supporting the annual Santa Barbara Reads program has funded the purchase of over 1,400 copies of Ray Bradbury's novel, *Fahrenheit 451*. The books have been distributed to junior high and high schools to promote the simultaneous reading and discussion of the book. All freshman classes at Santa Barbara High School are reading the book in September, as well as all English classes at continuation schools within the District. For the October student exhibit in the Faulkner Gallery, students are being encouraged to submit art inspired by the novel. The author of *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury, will appear at the Lobero Theatre on Sunday, October 11th and at the Faulkner Gallery on Thursday, October 22nd. The Big Read event is part of the Santa Barbara Reads program, which kicked off on September 25th. For a complete list of Santa Barbara Reads program events, visit: www.SBPLibrary.org/sbread.

Herman Melville Book Sale. Herman Melville is the late American author best known for his 1851 classic masterpiece, *Moby Dick*. In honor of Herman Melville's 190th Birthday, the Central Library held a nine-day blowout book sale. Library patrons raced in each morning to nab great deals on donated library materials, which ranged from 25 cents to one dollar. The sale included 1940s and 1950s *Life* and *Look* magazines, LPs, CDs, VHS tapes, and books. The sale cleaned out a large backlog of donations and raised \$3,200.

Parks and Recreation Department

Programs at Carrillo Recreation Center Temporarily Relocated. A bid for construction is expected to be awarded by the end of the month. Offices and programs will be moving out of the building this month, however the public should be aware that phone numbers will remain the same. The largest programs will temporarily be moved to the Carrillo Street gym and the smaller classes will be moving to the MacKenzie Adult Building. The City is hoping to complete the ballroom portion of the building by March 2010, so that displaced programs can return while the remainder of the facility is still in construction. For more information on the temporary locations of programs, call the Carrillo Recreation Center at 897-2519.

Catch Basin Inlet Storm Drain Screens Project. Storm drain screens are being installed in all 1400 catch basin openings in the City. The stainless steel, retractable screens will keep trash and debris from entering the storm drains, creeks, estuaries, and the ocean. The screens have perforated holes that allow moderate amounts of water to flow through, while holding trash back at the curb side. The trash that is stopped in front of the screens will be picked up by street sweeping trucks on their scheduled routes. To prevent the risk of flooding during large storms, the screens are designed to open and allow fast-flowing water to pass through. This project is supported by economic stimulus funds.

Golf and Creeks Division Project Updates. The Creeks Division is more than halfway done with a large water quality improvement and creek restoration project at the Santa Barbara Municipal Golf Course. Large storm water detention basins, bioswales, and over 9000 native plants will filter urban runoff from the Las Positas Creek watershed. New greens were constructed at the 5th and 11th holes to reduce the potential for property damage, while also increasing golfer safety. The new greens average 5100 square feet and are tentatively scheduled to open in January 2010. In addition to the greens reconstruction, a continuous cart path system will be completed by the end of October. For weekly construction updates, visit: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Free Swim and Tennis Weekend on October 3rd and 4th. The City's Parks and Recreation Department encourages the community to take advantage of free tennis and pool/ocean activities during the weekend of October 3rd and 4th. The weekend kicks off with a Tennis Open House at the Municipal Courts located at 1414 Park Place, which includes a celebration of grassroots tennis and the completion of a new sound wall. This Saturday event will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and includes a kids' clinic, social doubles and cardio tennis classes, a Prince Racquet Court demonstration, and a "clock your serve" contest. In addition, there will be information on volunteer opportunities, an historic photo display, and free pizza at noon. For more information on this event, please call 564-5573.

On Saturday, October 3rd, from noon to 2 p.m., adults can swim free at Los Banos Pool located at 401 Shoreline Drive. On Sunday, October 4th, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., there is a free Outrigger Clinic at West Beach. Participants must be water safe and also reserve a space for this clinic in advance by calling 969-5595.

Police Department

Operation Apehanger. On September 19th, the Santa Barbara Regional Narcotic Enforcement Team, in conjunction with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and with support from the Santa Barbara Police Department SWAT team, California Highway Patrol warrant service teams, Los Angeles Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, San Luis Obispo County Narcotics Task Force, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, served search and arrest warrants on seven locations and seven suspects within the City during Operation Apehanger.

Operation Apehanger resulted in the arrest of all seven people and five additional people, accused of operating a criminal conspiracy to traffic in illegal firearms and narcotics. During the nine-month investigation, agents seized numerous fully automatic AK-47 assault rifles, semi-automatic assault rifles, a stolen handgun, additional handguns, and several ounces of cocaine. Agents also seized an illegal indoor marijuana cultivation which was located across the street from a local elementary school.

This investigation has resulted in removing dangerous weapons and diminishing the flow of illegal drugs from the streets of Santa Barbara. Operation Apehanger was a successful event and serves as one example of how the City, along with other agencies, are working together to aggressively crack down on drugs and weapon dealers and keeping the streets of Santa Barbara safe.

Angry, Armed, and Arrested. On August 27th at 7:15 p.m., a 59-year old intoxicated man was driving on lower Alisos Street. Another motorist, angry due to the man's impaired driving, pulled alongside his car. The two motorists exchanged angry words. The intoxicated man pulled a pistol and fired a few shots in the air toward the Riviera. As the intoxicated suspect drove away, the other party followed and called 9-1-1. Officers with the Santa Barbara Police Department responded to the incident on the southbound 101 Highway at Sheffield. The suspect was arrested for driving under the influence, negligent discharge of a firearm, and possession of a loaded firearm in public.

DUI Driver Hit-and-Run Spree. On August 25th at 9 p.m., police dispatch received multiple calls of different traffic accidents on the north side of town. Police determined that a San Luis Obispo man driving a big pickup truck struck a vehicle at a gas station at 3000 State Street. The driver fled, only to hit another vehicle at a gas station at Las Positas and Modoc Roads. The driver fled again and hit a parked car on Palermo Street. The suspect's vehicle flipped over on its side and the hit-and-run spree ended. The driver was treated and released from the hospital for a minor injury. Police arrested the man for driving under the influence and two counts of hit-and-run.

Public Works Department

West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project. The West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project construction is currently underway to improve the pedestrian linkage and safety between Stearns Wharf and the Harbor. Funded by the Redevelopment Agency, the project includes 57,000 square feet of sidewalk, curbs, wheel chair ramps, a pedestrian controlled traffic signal, and the installation of public art and landscaping. Construction began in June and is expected to be complete in January.

West Downtown Pedestrian Improvements. Construction of the West Downtown Pedestrian Improvement Project started in early September, with the goal of improving pedestrian safety and enhancing the neighborhood along the Ortega and Anapamu corridors. Eight intersections will be improved from Castillo to Chapala Streets along Ortega and Anapamu Streets. The improvements include: pedestrian-oriented lighting, sidewalk replacement as needed, enhanced crosswalks, bulb outs, new street trees, and drought tolerant landscaping. The City provides bi-monthly updates to the Downtown Organization and the Chamber of Commerce to assist nearby businesses with construction impacts. The City is also working closely with individual businesses to help minimize the impacts of construction. The work at the Ortega and Chapala Streets intersection is scheduled to be completed by November and all intersection improvements will be finished by March 2010.

Cliff Drive Residents Say Goodbye to Overhead Utilities. Underground construction to remove overhead utilities on Cliff Drive began this month and is expected to last approximately eighteen months. The Cliff Drive Underground Utility District Project is a joint effort by Southern California Edison, Verizon, Cox Communications, and the City of Santa Barbara. Construction is located on Cliff Drive between Salida del Sol and Mesa Lane, including surrounding streets. The project includes placing all overhead wires and facilities for supplying electric, communication, or similar services underground, and removing the existing overhead wires and wooden utility poles. In addition, new street lighting will be installed along the project corridor. During

construction, the roads will remain open. However, construction will require some lane closures. The City appreciates the community's understanding and patience during construction. For more information on construction activities, visit: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Erosion Mitigation Projects Underway. The Jesusita Fire that occurred in May 2009 came precariously close to the City's Cater Water Treatment Plant and other water facilities in the fire area. To control erosion around the Cater Water Treatment Plant and along access roads to water facilities, the City of Santa Barbara Water Resources Division is applying a hydroseed mix to steeper slopes in the fire area.

Additionally, the City worked with the County of Santa Barbara to initiate an aerial hydromulch project to treat approximately 1000 acres of non-federal land in the Jesusita Fire area. Hydromulch is a mix of paper, wood fiber, water and a binding substance. It is certified 100% plastics free. The material helps hold soil in place to minimize erosion, trap moisture and create an environment in which the native seeds and roots already present in the soil can sprout. An organic green dye in the hydromulch helps the pilots see where they have made their drops, but the color will fade to a light brown within a short period of time. The benefit derived from the hydromulch is greatest when the treated areas are kept free of foot and vehicular traffic for the first year to protect the hydromulch cover.

For more information on the hydromulching project visit the County Public Works Department website at: www.countyofsb.org/pwd.

City Finds Disposal Savings for Streets Rubble. The Streets Division is reusing debris from sidewalk maintenance projects, reducing disposal costs by 75%. The asphalt and concrete material collected is ground up by Granite Construction and reused in roadwork projects. Granite Construction's Goleta facility accepts concrete and asphalt rubble from contractors and public agencies for disposal. By switching from disposal to recycling, the City expects to save approximately \$15,000 this fiscal year.

Waterfront Department

Annual Harbor Festival. The 2009 Santa Barbara Harbor and Seafood Festival will be held on Saturday, October 10th. The Harbor and Seafood Festival is presented by the City, Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, Inc., Santa Barbara Harbor Merchants' Association, and the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. The festival will highlight fresh seafood from the Santa Barbara Channel and live musical entertainment. Festival-goers will have an opportunity to meet local fishermen and enjoy fresh lobster, crab, prawns, and sea bass. Seafood cooking demonstrations at Chuck's Waterfront Grill will include seafood handling and preparation tips. A raffle will be held for a new smart car built by Mercedes. Admission is free. Festival-goers can purchase a raffle ticket for \$20 each or three tickets for \$50. All proceeds support the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's Education programs, exhibits, and general operating funds. Raffle tickets are available at the Museum Store by calling 962-8404, extension 104. For more information about this year's Harbor and Seafood Festival, visit: www.HarborFestival.org.

City and County Partner Together for Reverse 911 Exercise. The Santa Barbara County Sheriffs Department and the City of Santa Barbara tested the County's Reverse 9-1-1 system with boaters and tenants at the waterfront. On September 10th at 10 a.m., over 1,500

phones rang during a two-hour period. The waterfront area is a vulnerable environment where coastal storms, marina fires, or tsunamis could create a need for immediate evacuation. The City has been working with the County Sheriff's Office for the past year to develop a dedicated database of phone numbers to call in case of a waterfront emergency. This is all part of the City's Emergency Preparedness Plan and a component of its recently acquired designation as a "Storm Ready" community, a certification bestowed by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.